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To: [Career Deputy Assistant Administrators; Leadership Deputy Associate Administrators; Leadership Assistant Administrators; Leadership Regional Administrators; Leadership Deputy Regional Administrators; Leadership Associate Administrators; Leadership Deputy Assistant Administrators; Deputy Regional Councils; Regional Councils; Regional FOIA Officers; FOIA Coordinators-Officers-Alternates-and-Supervisors; EPA FOIA Community](#)
Cc: [Chaudhary, Dimple; Hope, Brian; Joffe, Brian; OGC NFO; Vendinello, Lynn; Gross, Louann; Wachter, Eric; Weaver, Susannah](#)
Subject: March 2022 EPA FOIA Backlog Report
Date: Friday, March 4, 2022 1:54:50 PM
Attachments: [image004.png](#)

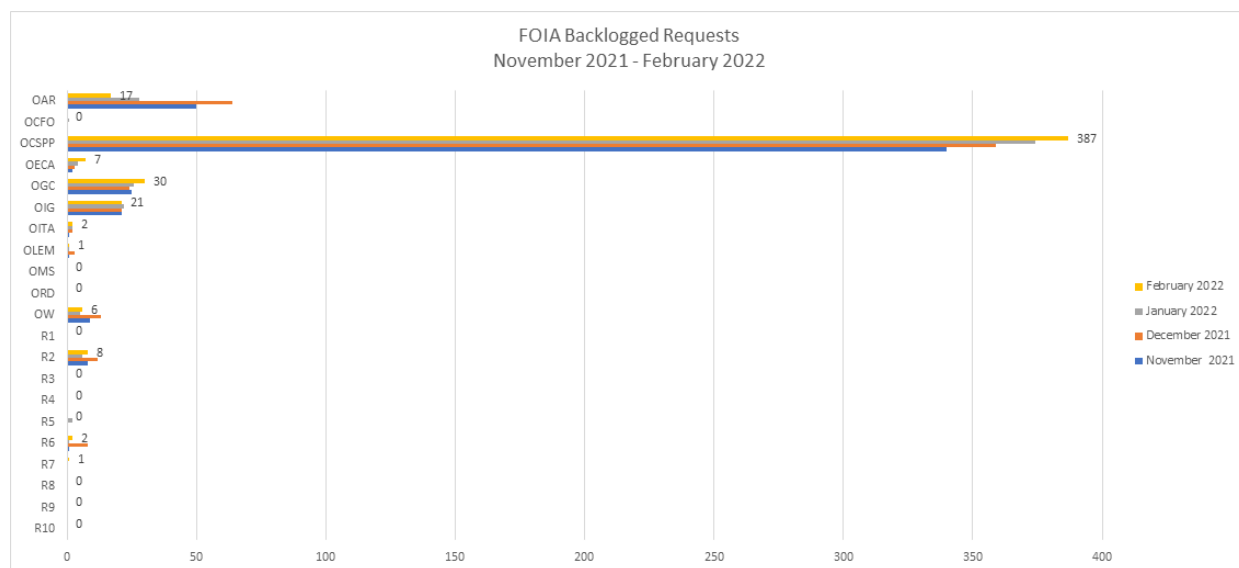
Colleagues,

Overall, the Agency's backlog of overdue FOIA requests went up slightly in February and remain above what it was at the beginning of the fiscal year. The backlog at the end of February increased to 1,118 as compared to 1,105 at the end of January; the February backlog is higher than the backlog of 1,056 at the beginning of the fiscal year.

Congratulations for a zero backlog at the end of February goes to OCFO, OMS, ORD and Regions 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, and 10. The following additional offices also maintained very low backlog numbers: Regions 6 and 7, OITA and OLEM. Low backlog numbers help the Agency's overall commitment to transparency and the objective to eliminate the FOIA backlog.

End of December Overdue FOIA Data

In a new format this month, the chart below shows the number of overdue FOIA requests in EPA headquarters program offices and the regions at the end of the most recent four months: February and January 2022, and December and November 2021. The Office of the Administrator's backlog increased slightly to 636 at the end of February from 633 at the end of January.



For this report, overdue FOIA request is defined as a FOIA request pending for more than 20 working days as of the end of the month or beyond an applicable due date extension that has been documented in FOIAonline (by agreement, proper notice of unusual circumstances, or notice of clock stoppage for clarification or fee assurances that is recorded as a due date extension). Please note that this definition of the backlog is different from the definition required for the Agency's annual report to the Department of Justice, which does not take into account unusual circumstances extensions beyond 10 days or other statutorily authorized due date extensions documented in the FOIAonline tracking system.

The November data in this report was generated from FOIAonline on December 7, 2021; the December data on January 3, 2022; the January data on February 1, 2022; and the February data on March 1, 2022. If you would like to discuss the data, what additional data you would like to see reported, or to discuss ideas on how we can more rapidly reduce the Agency's FOIA backlog and more effectively meet the Agency's FOIA responsibility, please contact me at epp.timothy@epa.gov or at (202) 564-2830.

Tim

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